

Message Text

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TAGS: EINV
SUBJ: EXIM BANK AND OPIC MISSIONS TO ASEAN NATIONS

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1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED EXIM CHAIRMAN MOORE'S VISIT AND THE OPIC MISSION LED BY CHARLES ROBINSON TO ASEAN COUNTRIES IN NOVEMBER WITH MINISTER ATTACHED TO PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT SOMPORN PUNYAGUPTA AUGUST 28. AMBASSADOR STRESSED PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THESE VISITS AS DEMONSTRATION US INTEREST IN EXPANDING INVESTMENT COOPERATION WITH ASEAN AND VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TRIPS PROVIDE FOR THAILAND AND OTHER ASEAN NATIONS TO PRESENT SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND GARNER FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN US.

2. MINISTER SOMPORN DECLARED RTG WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND FULLY APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY MISSIONS OFFERED. RTG WAS DISTURBED BY LOW LEVEL OF IVSJMEREST IN NEW INVESTMENT AND DISTRESSED BY EVIDENCE US AND EUROPEAN COMPANIES REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF LONG TERM STABILITY IN THAILAND. IN HIS VIEW CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER PAST THREE YEARS. THAILAND IS

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STABLE AND AFFORDS MANY ATTRACTIVE AND SOLID INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. MINISTER SOMPORN ASSURED AMBASSADOR RTG, FROM PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK ON DOWN, WOULD COOPERATE TO ASSURE SUCCESS OF MISSIONS.

3. OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS EMBASSY WILL BE MEETING WITH SOMPORN, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THAI

BUSINESS GROUPS TO REFINE SCHEDULES. IN THIS REGARD IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAMES AND INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL OPIC MISSION PARTICIPANTS SO WE CAN MATCH-UP INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH THAI COUNTERPARTS.

4. EMBASSY AGREES OVERLAP IN EX-IM AND OPIC MISSIONS TO THAILAND IS COMPLIMENTARY AND PROVIDES DOUBLE-BARRELED DEMONSTRATION OF US INTEREST IN PROMOTING EXPANDED INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS TRADE. BECAUSE BANGKOK VISIT COMES NEAR END OF TOUR, AMBASSADOR BELIEVES BOTH MOORE AND ROBINSON SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING SPEECHES HERE FOCUSED ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS IN REGION AS A WHOLE. SUGGEST LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AFFORDS APPROPRIATE PLATFORM FOR JOINT REMARKS BEFORE PRESTIGIOUS AUDIENCE. EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE WOULD BE ARRANGED. AMBASSADOR WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF CHAIRMAN MOORE AND CHUCK ROBINSON WOULD DISCUSS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THIS TYPE.

5. WHILE WE ENVISAGE MOORE PARTICIPATING IN SOME PORTIONS OF OPIC PROGRAM AND THE LUNCH, WE PLAN TO DESIGN A SEPARATE SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS FOR CHAIRMAN MOORE TAILORED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH EXISTING AND POTENTIAL EX-IM CUSTOMERS.

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6. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH RTG, AMERICAN AND THAI BUSINESS GROUPS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS MISSIONS TIMELY AND OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. ABRAMOWITZ

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